FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MARCH 1986

Libya

One of two U.S. missiles aimed at a Libyan SAM-5 installation failed to explode and Libya intends to hand it over to the Soviet Union in order to "spite" the United States, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a 28 March speech broadcast by Tripoli television. The other U.S. missile exploded harmlessly, Al-Qadhdhafi maintained, adding that the United States "did not destroy" the SAM-5's because Libya "tricked" the U.S. electronic system. As for the second U.S. attack on the same target, he said that "if the 6th Fleet launched any other missiles, we did not see them and we did not hear about them." Al-Qadhdhafi also reaffirmed Libya's claim to have downed three U.S. jets, asserting that this caused the Americans to "go crazy" and take "revenge" by attacking Libyan shipping. Later in his remarks, Al-Qadhdhafi acknowledged that U.S. attacks hit a dredger, a patrol boat, and a tugboat.

Al-Qadhdhafi warned that Libya will challenge any future U.S. exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, and while acknowledging the U.S. ability to "sow destruction in Libya," he warned that "if we see that we are about to be finished, we shall take the American 6fh Fleet with us." On the Americans in Libya, he stressed that they are coming to no harm, claiming that they prefer to live in Libya rather than the United States, where people live in "poverty and misery" because the U.S. budget is spent on weapons. Al-Qadhdhafi thanked the Soviet Union for its political support in the conflict and he also praised Syria, which coupled verbal support with "positive and satisfactory action."

In the wake of Al-Qadhdhafi's speech the Libyan paper *AL-FAJR AL-JADID* announced that retaliatory actions against U.S. targets have begun, citing an operation against a U.S. officer in Italy as one example, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Earlier, JANA listed over 50 messages of support for Libya from various organizations throughout the world. One such message, broadcast by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland 27 March, came from the "revolutionary force in Oxford aerodrome, Britain," which declared its willingness to form "suicide squads" against the United States. British police subsequently announced an investigation into the group of Libyans at the air training school near Oxford, KUNA reported.

In other developments, Tripoli Domestic radio announced the PDRY foreign minister's arrival in Tripoli 30 March, noting his statement that the visit is to express the PDRY's solidarity with Libya against U.S. "aggression and against Libyan waters and sovereignty." In Riyadh, an "informed" Saudi source cited by the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ* contended that Saudi Arabia is mediating to reduce tension between Libya and the United States. The source linked this with a recent visit by two Libyan envoys to Riyadh. The envoys delivered a message from Al-Qadhdhafi to the UAE president 30 March, Abu Dhabi radio noted.

Egypt

A 31 March *AL-AHRAM* report cited by Beirut radio claimed that Egypt has rejected three U.S. invitations to participate in a military attack against Libya. Egypt told U.S. envoys that it rejects using arms against any Arab country, *AL-AHRAM* said.

Sudan

The United States is "meddling in Sudan's internal affairs and trying to impose its hegemony and patronage over Sudan," Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah said in reaction to an announcement that the United States has halted its aid to Sudan in protest against Sudan's acceptance of Libyan military aid. In a statement to *AL-SAHAFAH* reported by SUNA, 'Abdallah said Libya has supplied "essential" aid to the Sudanese Air Force since the United States cut off military aid to Sudan in April 1985. 'Abdallah called on Sudanese "political forces" to denounce the U.S. aid cutoff, adding that Sudan will continue to search for alternative sources of military assistance.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes attacked and destroyed Iranian troop concentrations near Panjwin, an F-5 near Reza'iyeh Lake, a bridge in Paveh region, and three "large boats" in the northern Gulf 29 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The communique also claimed that Iraqi naval forces attacked a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 28 March. An earlier communique broadcast by the radio announced that Iraqi planes destroyed a "huge military plane" at Reza'iyeh airbase, sank an Iranian supply vessel and two small boats in the northern Gulf, and attacked another "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast 28 March.

In related reports, Bahrain's *GULF DAILY NEWS* revealed that Iranian firefighting tugboats extinguished a fire which had broken on board the Liberian-flagged supertanker *Hawaii* after it was hit by an Iraqi Exocet missile south of Khark Island the night of 28-29 March. The Bahraini paper later reported that bomb disposal experts are to board the Norwegian supertanker *Berge King 31 March in order to defuse an unexploded Iranian* rocket which hit the vessel off the Qatari coast 30 March.

Meanwhile, An Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA denied an Iraqi claim that Iraqi troops occupied "strategic heights" in northern Iraq 28 March, and IRNA later cited an Iranian communique which claimed that Iraqi troops had suffered "substantial casualties" in a major clash with Iranian troops in the Panjwin area. Tehran radio subsequently reported that Iranian planes inflicted "heavy losses" on Iraqi command posts and troop positions on the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis 30 March. In other reports, the radio claimed that naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps destroyed an Iraqi oil platform 29 March.

Lebanon

An Amal Movement statement broadcast by Beirut radio 30 March held Palestinian gunmen responsible for triggering armed clashes between Palestinian and Amal fighters which erupted around the Sabra and Shatila camps over the weekend. Accusing PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's followers of trying to drag Amal into a battle for the camps, the statement called on the Palestinian National Salvation Front, which opposes 'Arafat, to play a "more effective role" and take control of all weapons inside the camps. The fighting resumed 31 March after an overnight cease-fire, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, which said casualties from the clashes numbered 18 killed and 60 injured.

In another development, Damascus radio denied accusations that Syrian forces participated in recent artillery attacks on Christian areas, stating in a 29 March commentary that "those who wagered on Israel" are now "fabricating differences with Syria," which is "not involved" in the recent "security flareups."

As for southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio announced that katyusha rockets were fired across the border toward Upper Galilee the night of 29 March, causing no injuries. Two UNIFIL soldiers were killed in clashes with gunmen 28-29 March, according to a UNIFIL spokesman cited by Voice of Lebanon radio.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres intends to raise new ideas aimed at breaking the Mideast political deadlock during his forthcoming talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Jerusalem television reported.

PDRY Amnesty

A Supreme People's Council Presidium decree broadcast by Aden radio 29 March proclaimed a "general amnesty" for persons involved in "crimes connected with the conspiracy of 13 January." The amnesty applies to those who bore arms on behalf of "conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his gang," subject to a number of conditions, including a 60-day deadline for persons who have fled abroad to return.

The authorities released 720 persons from jail in the wake of the amnesty announcement, according to Aden radio.

Western Sahara

A Saharan Information Ministry statement cited by Algiers radio 30 March claimed that Polisario forces killed or wounded 46 Moroccans in an attack on a military base behind one of Morocco's defensive walls.

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Karmal Addresses Revolutionary Council
LD292212 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The regular session of the DRA Revolutionary Council was held this morning at the Delkosha Palace of the Revolutionary Council Headquarters chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The agenda, which included assessments of the approval of the DRA socioeconomic development plan for 1 March 1986; assessments of the 1985 plan; assessments of the approval of the 1986 state budget the accomplishments of the 1984 [as heard] budget; and assessments of the report on the activities of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and the permanent commissions of the Revolutionary Council was unanimously approved by the members of the Revolutionary Council.

Then Babrak Karmal made an opening speech and said: Esteemed members of the revolutionary council, we are holding this session of the DRA Revolutionary Council at a very important time. Some time ago the 27th Communist Party Congress of the Soviet Union was held and the delegation of the PDPA also took part in its work at the invitation of the Soviet Union Communist Party Central Committee.

The people of Afghanistan support from the bottom of their hearts the comprehensive peace program by the Soviet Union.

Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev once again declared to all the world through the congress that the Soviet Union supports Afghanistan's efforts for the defense of its national sovereignty and is interested in a political solution for a real, and guaranteed safe end to foreign intervention.

All the people of Afghanistan are sincerely thanking the people of the Soviet Union for their all-around help, for the support of [word indistinct] matter in the repulsing imperialistic and reactionary aggression.

Today, once more we declare that our goodwill will stay unchanged for the political solution of relations between Iran and Pakistan. We are in favor of peace and mutual understanding with our neighbors — not through war and conflict, but through constructive political talks on all the relevant problems. Only this way is just and reasonable in accordance with the interests of the people.

In order to achieve peace and good-neighborliness, we will not submit to provocation but will express patience and goodwill and invite the opposite side to submit to reason and goodwill.

The day before yesterday the 17th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was held. The basic guidelines for the socioeconomic growth of the DRA for the years 1986-1987 was approved at the plenum.

A BIA correspondent reports that Sarwar Mangal, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee presented the session with a report on the DRA socioeconomic development plan for 1986 and on the implementation of last year's plan.

Then Muhammad Kabir, finance minister, presented to the session the report on the 1986 state budget of the DRA.

Anwar Farzam, secretary of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, presented a report on the activities of the Presidium and the permanent commissions of the Revolutionary Council during the second half of 1985.

The BIA reporter adds that the decree for the approval of the 1986 DRA socioeconomic development plan, the decree for the approval of the state budget for 1986 and its accomplishments in 1984 [as heard], and the decree on the confirmation of the accomplishments of the Presidium DRA Revolutionary Council during the second half of 1985 and also the activities of the permanent commission of the Revolutionary Council was unanimously approved by the members of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Karmal Leaves on 'Short, Unofficial' Visit to USSR
LD301500 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, 30 Mar (BAKHTAR) — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this morning left for Soviet Union on a short, unofficial visit.

Members and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and a number of party and state officials were present at Kabul International Airport to see him off.

Security Forces Successes, Weapon Seizures Detailed
LD301615 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Citing a DRA security force source, BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations by the country's security forces in the region of Bala Boluk district, Farah Province, a number of armed counterrevolutionaries belonging to the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami band were captured.

A recoilless Egyptian-made 82-mm gun, a mortar with three shells, two DShK's, a [word indistinct] rocket, and Egyptian-made machine-gun, and a foodstuffs and medicine depot were seized by the security forces.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations, the security forces, with the help of the noble peoples of villages of (Malagyan) and (Chat Ghodi), Musa'i subdistrict, Kabul Province, seized 2 DShK's, a rocket launcher, a medium mortar, and 20,000 assorted shells in the nests of the Gulbuddin band.

British Foreign Minister Howe Visits Delhi

Terrorism 'Likely' To Be Discussed

BK291316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] India's grave concern over the use of British soil for directing anti-Indian terrorist activities is likely to be conveyed to the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, who is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow night on a 4-day official visit. The All India Radio correspondent recalls that this concern has repeatedly been expressed in Parliament by all sections. There is a feeling that British Government has not acted with adequate firmness and effectiveness in dealing with terrorism and terrorists like Jagjit Singh Chauhan and followers of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.

Sir Geoffrey Howe will be leading an 18-member delegation. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the British minister will call on the president and the prime minister besides having formal talks with his host, the minister for external affairs, Mr B. R. Bhagat.

Arrives 30 March

BK310316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Jeoffrey Howe, arrived in New Delhi last night on a 4-day official visit. He was received at the airport by the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Venkateswaran. The British high commissioner, Sir Robert Wade-Gery, was also present. Sir Geoffrey is accompanied by an 18-member delegation.

Soon after arrival, in a statement Sir Geoffrey said he was looking forward for substantive talks on a wide range of international issues which are of concern to Britain and India. More cooperation between the two countries will be taken up during the discussions with Indian leaders. The British foreign secretary said he will also obtain fresh insight into India's aspirations and concerns. He said his visit is taking place against a background of long-standing, continuous, and varied contacts between the two countries and the people at innumerable levels.

Sir Geoffrey will call on President Giani Zail Singh and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during his stay in the capital besides having talks with the external affairs minister, Mr Bhagat. He will also visit Agra and Bombay before leaving for Pakistan.

Formal Talks Begin

BK310917 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, and the visiting British foreign secretary, Sir Geofrey Howe, held formal talks in New Delhi this morning. Earlier, Sir Geoffrey, who arrived in capital last night with an 18-member delegation, called on Mr Bhagat. He also went to Raj Ghat and Shakti Sthal where he laid wreaths at the samadhis [mausoleums] of Mahatama Gandhi and Indira Gandhi. The british foreign secretary is calling on the president, Giani Zail Singh, later today.

Director of Punjab Police Replaced 28 March

BK281613 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The director general of Punjab police, Dr B. S. Dhariwal, has been replaced by Mr G. Robeiro, special secretary in the union ministry of home affairs. Mr Robeiro, a former police commissioner, is taking over tonight.

Further on Hindu-Sikh Unrest in Punjab

Gandhi Holds 'Urgent Consultations'

BK281623 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Excerpts] In Punjab, 9 persons were killed and 17 injured, 2 of them seriously, when some unidentified persons suspected to be terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in Dressi Arya School ground and Damoria bridge area in Ludhiana early this morning.

In Kapurthala, one person was injured when police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob indulging in brickbatting and violence. Curfew in Kapurthala, which was in force during night hours only, has been extended during the day also. The district administration in many places has enforced restrictions on plying on 2-wheeler automobiles. Restrictions range from a total ban on plying to the pillion riding.

The Congress-I vice president Mr Arjun Singh, and the minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, have rushed to Punjab to study the situation and mobilize the support of all parties to help the Barnala government meet the increasing threat from terrorists. Immediately after getting the news of the incidents in Ludhiana, the prime minister had urgent consultations with some of his senior colleagues. Efforts are being made in the capital to contact the leaders of all national parties to discuss how all the parties could strengthen Mr Barnala's hands in dealing with the extremists. The national integration council has been convened to meet in New Delhi on the 7th of next month. It will discuss the matter.

Minister Sees 'No Need' for Army

BK290402 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] The center has extended its full support to the Punjab government in combating terrorism in the state. Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh last night, the minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, expressed the center's concern over the law-and-order situation in Punjab and said it will continue to give whatever support is required by the state government in dealing with the situation. He said terrorism has to be fought firmly at every level. The people of Punjab want peace and prosperity, and the terrorists had no support amongst

them. Replying to a question, Mr Nehru said there is no need at the moment for calling out the army in Punjab. He reiterated the center's commitment to the implementation of the Punjab accord. Mr Nehru said that the center was maintaining a constant vigil to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border. He also condemned yesterday's killings in Ludhiana.

The Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, who also addressed the news conference, called upon all political parties to launch a joint campaign against terrorism and communalism in Punjab. He asked the chief minister to take the strongest possible action to tackle the law-and-order situation in the state. He said the Congress-I will stand by the people of Punjab and will perform the duty of a responsible opposition party in the state. Mr Nehru and Mr Arjun Singh rushed to Punjab yesterday to study the situation and mobilize the support of all parties to help the Barnala government meet the increasing threat from terrorists. Both the leaders have meetings with Mr Barnala and the state governor, Dr S.D. Sharma, after arriving in Chandigarh.

Political Parties Call Strike

BK290915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in Punjab and Chandigarh today in protest agaisnt yesterday's shooting incident in Ludhiana. The call for the bundh was given by the major political parties in the state. They are: the BJP [Bharatyia Janata Party], the Congress-I, the CPI, and the Janata Party. The Akali Dal president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has also extended support to the bundh call.

The situation in all the curfew-bound towns in Punjab continues to be under control. The union minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, and the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, along with the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, reached Ludhiana from Chandigarh this morning for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. Leaders of some other political parties have also accompanied them.

A similar bundh is being observed in Haryana following a call given by the state unit of the BJP. In Himachal Pradesh, shopkeepers in Simla observed a bundh, condemned the killings, and urged the Barnala government to deal with the antinational elements firmly. A member of the Himachal Sikh Gurdwara [temple] Board, Mr Rawel Singh, has also condemned the killings.

Meanwhile, the authorities have taken all possible measures to check any untoward incident in the state. The BJP president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has expressed concern over the situation in Punjab. Addressing a meeting in Gwalior last night, he demanded the dismissal of the Barnala government for its failure to contain the terrorist activities in the state. He charged the center also for the deterioration of the situation in the state. The chief of the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee, Mir Waiz Maulvi Farooq, has condemned terrorist activities and brutal killings of innocent people in Punjab. In his statement in New Delhi today, he appealed to the people to help the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, in defusing the situation in the state.

In Punjab, a terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with a police party in village (Kerwal) near Tarn Taran in Amritsar district this morning. According to official spokesman in Chandigarh, the exchange of fire followed the raid by the police party at his house to apprehend him.

The Delhi police have arrested an alleged terrorist Harvinder Singh Khalsa. Police also said he was reportedly involved in the bomb blast cases of 1983 and was declared a proclaimed offender.

Gandhi Seeks Joint Party Efforts

BK291258 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has called for joint efforts by all political parties to meet the threat posed by the terrorists in Punjab. Inaugurating a Congress trainees camp near Badli in Delhi today, he said no party should try to take political advantage of the current situation in the state. He appealed to the people of all communities to counter violence unitedly. Warning the people that a tense situation in a sensitive border state only weakens the country, Mr Gandhi said the entire nation should be alert to meet any challenge. He referred to yesterday's incidents of violence and said this had happened earlier in the state, but the people in general had shown commendable restraint and remained peaceful.

Mr Gandhi said certain powers do not like India being independent and emerging powerful in the Third World. These forces, he added, have been making relentless efforts to divide the people of the country. Mr Gandhi said India is determined to move forward in the world community with its independent foreign policy, secularism, and democratic principles, and without being pressurized by any neocolonial power.

Gandhi Briefed on Situation

BK300416 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, and the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, have apprised the prime minister of the latest law and order situation in Punjab. Both Mr Arjun Singh and Mr Arun Nehru, who were sent by the prime minister to Punjab on Friday, returned last evening after an on-the-spot assessment of the situation in the state. The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, who had also come to Delhi with them, met Mr. Rajiv Gandhi later.

Opposition Seeks 'Save Punjab Day'

BK301012 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 30 (AFP) — Opposition parties here have called for a "save Punjab day" Monday and a general strike

Tuesday in a bid to pressure the federal government to act to end mounting Sikh violence in the northern state.

The nationalist Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has called for a "save Punjab day" to be observed across India Monday, to be followed by a one-day general strike in Delhi Tuesday.

Opposition sources said Monday's action would involve a massive march on the national parliament here.

The call, which came after a week of fresh killings in the strife-torn northern border state, was immediately backed by other opposition parties, including the Janata which ruled India from 1977-79 and the Congress (Sharad Pawar Group).

BJP Secretary Krishanlal Sharma said in a statement Saturday that his party wanted the moderate Sikh administration in Punjab to work with the federal government to develop a joint strategy to contain the militant violence.

Activists of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, a militant Hindu body closely associated with the BJP, were among 14 people reported killed in a suspected Sikh militant attack in Ludhiana on Friday.

Madan Lal Khurana, chief of the Delhi BJP chapter, said his party "could not remain a silent spectator to the unabated murders" in Punjab.

1 Killed in Police Fire

BK281248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] One person was killed and two others injured in police firing in Nakodar [in Punjab] today. The police had to resort to firing when lathi [baton] charge and tear gas failed to disrupt a mob which tried to take out a procession in the curfew-bound town. Ten policemen were injured in the brickbatting by the unruly mob.

Police Fire on Mob

BK291304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Excerpt] In Punjab, indefinite curfew was clamped today in Hoshiarpur and Pathankot towns. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, this is being done as a precautionary measure in view of some tension growing up in these towns.

In Pathankot, the police had to use force, including firing, to disperse an unruly mob indulging in arson and stone throwing. Fifteen persons were injured in the incident. The other towns in which the curfew is imposed are Batala, Kullundur, Nakodar, Kapurthala, Muktsar, Anandpur Saheb, Ludhiana, and Hajipur. The situation in all these towns continues to be under control. As reported earlier, a bundh [strike] is being observed in Punjab and Chandigarh today in protest against shooting incidents at Ludhiana.

8 Die in 'Terrorist' Attack

BK300405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, 8 persons were killed and a child injured when some jeep-borne terrorists struck in three village of Nakodar subdivision in Jullundur district last night. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the villages are (Madhya Kollah), (Madhya Kult), and (Gill). The terrorists, firing indiscriminately, drove through these villages. Senior civil and police officials have rushed to the spot on receipt of information along with well-equipped medical teams. The spokesman said the police last night conducted raids on suspected hideouts of terrorists at many places in the state. The new director-general of police, Mr G. Robeiro, rushed to Jullundur immediately on receipt of information late last night to personally supervise the anti-terrorist operations in the region.

The police all over the state have been alerted and the people are requested to report about the presence or movement of any suspicious-looking person or vehicle to the nearest police station or patrolling party. The state government has decided to cover the entire state under the sector scheme of intensive 24-hour patrolling by police and paramilitary forces. In this connection the state has requested the center for additional 45 companies of paramilitary forces.

Sikh 'Militants' Kill 20

BK300536 Hong Kong AFP in English 0522 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 30 (AFP) — Sikh militants gunned down 20 people in the Punjab town of Jalandhar Saturday, press reports said here Sunday. Officials on Saturday put the death toll in Jalandhar at 12, but the Punjab newspaper, *PUNJAB KESRI* said Sunday that 20 people had been gunned down.

It was the second major strike by the militants in the state in as many days.

In a smilar incident on Friday, 14 people, including militant Hindu activists were shot dead in the major Punjab industrial centre of Ludhiana.

3 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK301245 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists involved in yesterday's shootout in three villages of Nakodar subdivision of Jullundur district have been arrested. The arrest follows a joint combing operation by the police and paramilitary forces in the area. One jeep, two rifles, two sten guns, two revolvers, and large quantity of ammunition have been recovered from their possession. Five members of the group are reported to have escaped. Combing operations to apprehend them are continuing. During their preliminary interrogation, they have also accepted the responsibility for the shooting incident in Kapurthala some time ago when a number of persons were shot dead.

In Chandigarh, the Akali Dal legislative party is meeting tomorrow to take stock of the latest law and order situation in the state. The meeting has been summoned by the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala.

300 Arrested in Crackdown

BK301513 Hong Kong AFP in English 1502 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, March 30 (AFP) — The police killed two Sikh militants and arrested about 300 persons, including five suspected of involvement in the killing of 12 people on Saturday, as a drive against Sikh militant violence gathered pace in Punjab on Sunday.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported that two Sikh militants had been killed in a shootout with a paramilitary central reserve police patrol at the village of Panchhatta in the Jullundur district of the strife-torn northern Indian state.

Official sources here said the Punjab police and federal paramilitary forces had raided several suspected hideouts of hardcore Sikh militants and had taken about 300 persons into custody since the crackdown began on Saturday.

The PTI quoted police sources in the state capital Chandigarh as having said police officers had arrested five persons in connection with the killing of at least 12 people in the Jullundur district on Saturday.

Official sources said most of the 300-odd people detained had been arrested in four sensitive districts: Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Jullundur.

The sources did not identify those arrested, but said they were thought to be Sikhs suspected of being separatists or having links with separatists.

However, state officials said many hardcore militants had gone underground.

'Massive Drive' Against Terrorists

BK301625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Two suspected terrorists were killed in an encounter with a police patrolling party in Panchhatta village in Phagwara this morning. In another incident, one person was shot dead by some suspected terrorists in (Guman Khurd) village last night. Meanwhile, the curfew in Jullundur and Nakodar has been extended up to 1100 since Tuesday. [sentence as heard] There will be 5 hours relaxation in curfew in Jullundur and 4 hours in Nakodar from 0900 tomorrow. The 3-hour curfew relaxation at Batala today passed off peacefully. In Kapurthala, the curfew which was to have been relaxed for 5 hours from 0900 this morning was reimposed after 3½ hours as a precautionary measure.

Paramilitary forces and the state police are jointly launching a massive drive against the terrorists. This follows the state government's strategy to flush out terrorists from their hideouts. According to authoritative sources, the Punjab government is all set to adopt a tough attitude toward the terrorists with the full backing of the center. Forty-five companies of paramilitary forces were rushed to the state today.

At a meeting with the prime minister in New Delhi last night, the chief minister apprised him of the new strategy adopted by the state government to combat terrorism.

The recent killings of innocent people by terrorists in Punjab has evoked wide-spread condemnation from Sikh organizations throughout the country. At a congregation at Bangla Saheb Gurdwara in the capital today, eminent Sikhs said violence in the state is part of the designs of antinational elements. Those who addressed the congregation included the president of the Sikh forum, General Jagjit Singh Arora; leader of the Akali Dal parliamentary party, Mr Balwant Singh Ramoowalia; and former union minister, Mr I.K. Gujral. Later, a peace march was taken out.

The Punjab Congress-I has appealed to the people of Punjab to maintain peace and communal harmony in the state despite the grave provocations. The appeal was made in a resolution adopted at a meeting of district presidents and state office-bearers of the party in Chandigarh today. The meeting described the Barnala government as directionless and helpless and said it has no moral right to stay in power.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr L.K. Advani, has demanded a judicial inquiry into the killings in Punjab. Mr Advani, who was in Ludhiana for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation, told newsmen that the killings in Ludhiana and Jullundur districts during the past 2 days showed the failure of the Barnala government.

The Haryana Lok Dal president, Mr Devi Lal, has strongly condemned the shootouts in Ludhiana and Jullundur districts during the last 2 days. Mr Devi Lal told PRESS TRUST OF INDIA today that he has urged all secular political parties to extend their full support to Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, in crushing terrorism.

Antiterrorist Drive 'Intensified'

BK3'0354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, the day and night patrolling by the police and paramilitary forces has been further intensified all over the state. The combing operation to apprehend five terrorists who escaped when the police raided their hideout in village Rawal, 40 kilometers from Jullundur, is continuing. Three terrorists were arrested and a large number of arms and ammunition were recovered from the hideout.

In Amritsar, some unidentified terrorists lobbed two crude bombs over a police station early this morning; no damage was however caused. The policeman on duty fired at a fleeing miscreant but nobody was reported injured.

The Gurdaspur district police chief has clarified that the person shot dead in a village, (Guman Khurd), on Saturday [29 March] night was not a caretaker of any religious place. He said the police have registered a case and vigorous investigation is continuing.

Meanwhile, the Akali legislature party in Punjab is meeting in Chandigarh this evening to discuss the latest law and order situation in the state. The meeting has been called by the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, who is also the president of the party.

Sikh organizations throughout the country have condemned the recent killings in Punjab. At a congregation at Bangla Saheb Gurdwara in the capital, eminent Sikhs said antinational elements are responsible for violence in the state. Sri Guardwara Singh Sabha in Bangalore, Bombay, and Ahmedabad condemned the killings and demanded immediate action to defuse the situation in the state. The Sikh Sangat of Andhra Pradesh has extended its support to the Punjab government to put down antisocial elements. The Sikh community in Tamil Nadu, condemning the killings, urged the state administration to take immediate steps to curb violence. In Calcutta, four Sikh organizations at a joint meeting called for a united stand against the actions of the terrorists. The Sri Dasmesh Naujawan Sabha, the National Sikh Youth Federation, and the Khalsa Biradri of Delhi in separate statements expressed sorrow at the incidents and appealed for immediate check on the deteriorating law and order situation. The Hindu-Sikh Ekta Manch has called upon the people to join hands with the state government to root out terrorists.

In Jammu, all educational institutions will remain closed today in view of the bundh [strike] call given by various religious, social and political organizations in protest against the recent killings in Punjab. The Haryana government has taken adequate security measures to maintain peace and normalcy in the state in view of the call for a bundh given by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for today. The call has been given to protest against the recent shooting incidents in Punjab.

Police Arrest 2,000 Hindu Anti-Sikh Protesters

BK311033 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP) — Police arrested some 2,000 Hindu protesters in New Delhi Monday after they attacked police with stones, bottles and iron rods in an attempt to storm a Sikh temple, police and eyewitnesses said.

Some 5,000 Hindus had gathered to protest the murder of more than 20 Hindus by suspected Sikh militants in several incidents in the northern state of Punjab over the weekend, police said.

The demonstrators hurled sticks, stones, iron rods and bottles at police and paramilitary forces and damaged at least eight buses after they were prevented from marching on a three-centuries old Sikh temple, the Seeshganhj Gurdwara, in the north of the city, eyewitnesses said.

At least four police were injured in the incident. Police used batons and mounted police to disperse the crowd, they added.

At least 1,000 police and paramilitiary armed with automatic rifles were stationed round the huge temple complex, and additional forces had cut off roads leading to the temple.

"There would be a massacre if the Hindus get a chance to go near the temple," area police chief Rajendra Mohan said.

Kedar Nath Sahani, the local leader of the militant Hindu opposition party, the Bharatiya Janata [BJP], which organised the demonstration, said that they had simply planned to march through the capital's wholesale market to the Indian Parliament, but the police used "brute force" to stop them.

Trouble started when the demonstrators refused to take an alternative route to the Indian Parliament and insisted on breaking through the police cordons towards the Sikh temple.

This led to a free for all, and BJP workers gathered to paralyse traffic on the busiest main roads linking the north of the city to the rest of the capital.

Carrying sticks and shouting anti-Sikh slogans, the protesters attacked buses, smashed windscreens, deflated tyres, damaged traffic islands and attacked a police assistance booth demanding "death to Sikh militants who were killing their Hindu brothers."

Police said they had arrested about 2,000 people.

The BJP and other opposition parties have called for a one-day strike in New Delhi on Tuesday to protest the Punjab violence.

Junejo Views Citizen's Rights, Independent Judiciary

BK281134 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has declared that the government would make every effort to establish the supremacy of law and build an equitable society based on the Islamic concept of social justice. Inaugurating a 3-day Pakistan jurists' conference in Karachi this morning, he said the government regarded the honor and liberty of every citizen as a sacred trust. With the revival of the Constitution, fundamental rights of the citizens have not only been restored but have also been made justiciable. The restoration of fundamental rights was a positive guarantee of ensuring the safety of life and liberty which was in conformity with the Islamic injunctions. The Constitution has specified the functions and powers of executive, legislature, and judiciary which were the three organs of the state. He was opposed to any encroachment of one's powers by the other. The government was committed to implement the provisions in the Constitution for independence of judiciary in letter and spirit. It was the government's earnest desire that the judiciary should completely be separated from the executive and this would be achieved progressively. The prime minister said the lawyers had played an important role in securing justice for the common man. He hoped they would continue to do so keeping in view the constitution and demand of justice.

A constitutional committee has been set up under the federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, to propose what further amendments are needed in the Constitution. He announced amid loud cheers that he had decided to introduce a bill in the next session of the National Assembly for withdrawal of amendments in the legal practioners and bar council act which, he hoped, would satisfy all. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo announced a contribution of a half a million rupees for establishment of a fund for providing free legal aid to the poor and needly litigants and another half a million rupees as grant-in-aid for Pakistan Bar Council.

Protests Lodged With Afghan Envoy on Shelling

30 Mar

BK301534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The Karmal administration's armed forces fired 14 artillery shells on Wednesday which fell about 10 miles south of Nawagai, injuring 5 civilians. Next day Karmal forces fired another 15 artillery shells which fell in Bajaur Agency, killing 1 Afghan refugee. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon, and a strong protest was lodged with him on these unprovoked attacks.

31 Mar

BK311539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The Karmal administration's armed forces fired 34 artillery shells which fell near (Bahaduroala) in (Mamad) Agency on last Saturday. Later, during the day Karmal forces fired 30 more shells which fell near (Chakhe) village in Bajaur Agency killing a naval personnel. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today, and a protest was lodged with him on these incidents.

'Concern' Expressed Over Intensified Gulf War

BK310609 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over the recent intensification of the war between Iran and Iraq and the damage due to this. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that the tragic war, which has continued for 5 years, is destroying the national assets and youths of two great Islamic countries. (?Besides this), the dispute has also hurt the strength of the Islamic world at a time when it badly needs unity and solidarity to face common challenges. The spokesman said that continuous and repeated violation of international norms of human rights and responsibilities has further complicated the promotion of a negotiated settlement of the dispute. He said that Pakistan is seriously concerned at the conclusion of a UN expert team's report which confirmed the use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces. The spokesman described this serious violation of international law as regrettable, adding that Pakistan hopes that both parties will display patience and restraint and, understanding their international responsibilities, will join in the search for a just settlement to the dispute.

The spokesman said that Pakistan thinks that it is an Islamic duty to promote peace between the two brotherly countries on the basis of justice, and we will continue our effort both in and outside the Islamic Ummah Peace Committee for this objective.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Sermon in Tehran

Oil Prices, UN Stand on Iraq

GF281538 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran Friday imam, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Supreme Defense Council chairman, at Tehran University on 28 March — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon the men and women of our Muslim nation in the Arab world and throughout the world. We first congratulate you on the anniversary of the birth of the imam of the pious 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, may peace be upon him. I ask the Almighty to inspire our Muslim nation with 'Ali ibn Abu Talib's lofty spirit — the spirit of belief, loyalty, courage, effort, gratitude, and the refusal to succumb to anyone other than Almighty God — and to grant us all success in following his example and the example of all the other shining stars in the sky of Islam.

In the past week some issues of the Muslim world became prominent among world affairs. The first of such issues was OPEC and the covert and overt war being waged by the rich industrial countries against the poor and oil-producing peoples. Naturally, the fall in oil prices was in the interest of the main oil-consuming countries, that is, the rich countries which persistently refuse to change their unjust economic relations with the poor and (?exploited) to serve the interests of deprived peoples. Those who are occupying the thrones of industry and wealth — their great dependence on the oil of the wronged and poor countries notwithstanding — pay no attention to the people who possess that oil. Instead, they view the oil of these people as though it was part of their possessions and one of their rights.

The triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran has shaken the thrones of the tyrants and heralded the destruction of the unjust formulas that control the world economy. Consequently, oil prices suddenly tripled. In those circumstances we extended easy-term prices and other facilities to the poor oil-consuming countries. Indeed, in certain circumstances we gave oil free. However, our revolutionary policy toward the rich oil consumers was always that the rich oil consumers should pay for the dependence of their strength and wealth on oil.

The investors now are trying with all their power to strike a counter blow and to revert prices to the unjust situation that prevailed prior to the triumph of the Islamic revolution. It is regrettable that some OPEC members cooperated with that treacherous policy and stabbed their brothers in the back, using flimsy pretexts for such behavior. Their stand was indeed a support for the principal arrogant and covetous powers in our contemporary world. We did all that we could to confront the plot. Our efforts were not in the interest of the Muslim Iranian people alone, but were in the interest of all the oppressed oil-producing people, the majority of whom are Muslims.

We shall continue, God willing, our efforts and harness all our resources in this just struggle.

The other issue is the UN Security Council's condemnation of Iraq's use of chemical weapons. Although the Security Council's condemnation was sound, it was very inadequate. The Western states that are members of the Security Council prevented the adoption of a resolution by the Security Council and opposed the endorsement of any practical proposal that prevents the continuation of such war crimes. It is appropriate here to recall that the 'Aflaqi regime is continuing to use chemical weapons with the same zeal. The correctness of our nation's thinking in not relying on any source other than divine help and on our own resources has been clearly demonstrated. Evil and malicious elements such as Saddam and his 'Aflaqi and Al-Tikriti clique are deterred only by force and a strong will. Therefore, we are determined, with God's help, to continue to deal our crushing blows to the enemy — who is now on his death bed — until he exhales his last breath.

I urge you, O worshippers of God, to fear God, to put your affairs in order, and to reconcile your differences. Say the truth and work for God's reward; be an adversary of the unjust and a helper of the wronged. I ask God to forgive me and you. Peace be upon you. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Say: He is one God, the everlasting refuge, who has not begotten, and has not been begotten, and there is no one equal to Him. [Koranic verse]

U.S. 'Defeated' by Libya

LD281109 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 28 Mar 86

["President of U.S. Aggression, OPEC, War" — IRNA headline]

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic Friday described the recent U.S. aggression against Libya as "a wrong move stemming from an unsound decision" which, he said, was disgracefully defeated thanks to Libya's resistance.

He said in attempts to make up for their defeats and weak points in various corners of the world, U.S. administrators seem to have launched a show of power which, the president pointed out, has further exposed and disgraced them.

President Khamene'i who is also leader of Tehran's congregational Friday prayers made the remarks during his second sermon in presence of a large group of Muslim worshippers gathered at Tehran University campus and the nearby streets to hold this week's politico-religious prayers.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i stated that this aggressive U.S. move against Libya indicated the Reagan administration's wrong assessment which stemmed from its confusion and inexperience. By this move, he noted, the U.S. has further aroused the nations' hatred towards herself and displayed its political confusion before the world public opinion.

President Khamane'i added that the message of the Iranian nation for other nations was that there was only one response to these U.S. aggressions, that is people's resistance.

On the oil issue and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the leader of Friday prayers reiterated that the Islamic Republic will in no way give in to the price cut plot designed by global arrogance and its agents and that the oil price must be returned to $28 per barrel. He said this Iranian stand had been explicitly stated in the recent OPEC meet and that Libya and Algeria too had supported it. He also urged the OPEC member countries to coordinate their policies to this end.

On the Iraqi imposed war, the head of the Supreme Defence Council stated that the Baghdad regime was on the verge of collapse which fact, he said, was being gradually realised by the world.

He said the desperate Ba'th regime in Baghdad was now faced with rising social discontent, low morale of its troops, economic pressures resulting from its inability to pay back dues to foreign countries because of the ongoing war, and more important the crushing blows it was receiving from Iran's Islamic combatants in the war fronts.

President Khamene'i stressed that Iran's heavy blows against the tottering Baghdad regime must continue in the new year and that as Imam Khomeyni recently pointed out, the people and the Islamic combatants must more actively participate in the war fronts so that "we would put a victorious end to the war soon."

Libyan Envoy Condemns U.S. Attack, Stresses Support

GF281545 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] 'Abdallah Fadil, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Tehran, delivered a speech during the political-ideological Friday prayers in Tehran today. He explained the recent attacks of the U.S. Naval and Air Force on the Libyan coasts. He also denounced the plots of the international arrogance against the Libyan people and the Muslims of the Middle East. He stressed the firm decision of the Libyan people in adopting an overall confrontation of the U.S. plots. He said: The rebelling Libyan people will remain loyal to their revolutionary principles and will regard as their natural right self-defense and the defense of their revolution in the face of the U.S. attack.

The Libyan charge d'affaires also stressed the backing and support for the issues of the Islamic and revolutionary people in addition to the popular revolutionary movement all over the world which is confronting international arrogance. He also referred to the downing of three aggressive U.S. planes in the Libyan Gulf of Sidra. He said: Libya has the right to attack NATO headquarters and U.S. interests all over the world in the wake of the flagrant U.S. imperialist aggression on it. The Libyan charge d'affaires also stressed his country's support for the Islamic revolution. He lauded the courageous positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the confrontation of international arrogance and reaction. He stressed the brotherly unity between the Muslim Iranian and Libyan peoples in the combat against the United States and the Saddam regime.

Honduran 'Encroachment' Upon Nicaragua Condemned

LD281428 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — In a communique released here Thursday Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the Honduran Government for its encroachment upon Nicaragua as an instance of "U.S. adventurism against revolutionary and freedom-loving nations."

Iran's Foreign Ministry said the implications of such "aggressive and convulsive" insinuations being evident, international organizations and responsible world bodies as well as independent nations should condemn such acts and also expose "the ugly face of the aggressor United States."

Kuwaiti Paper Claims Khomeyni Seriously Ill

GF291345 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Mar 86 p 19

[Text] Paris — Khomeyni's health has seriously deteriorated recently. His kidneys are not working and he is suffering from acute heart trouble. Foreign doctors have been called in to supervise his medical treatment. The two doctors who were treating him, Sadeqi and Roshdi Ma'sumi, were dismissed and have managed to escape from Iran.

IRGC Urges 'All' To Apply for Deployment to Fronts

LD281212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Following the recent speech by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces on sending more forces to the fronts, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has issued the following statement:

In carrying out the emphatic and mandatory behests of the illustrious leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Imam Khomeyni — as declared in previous statements of the corps — the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in accordance with its lawful tasks and more resolutely than ever by employing all its capabilities, deems it essential to declare its readiness to carry out that command. Therefore, it hereby calls on all combatant forces volunteering for the fronts to apply in person, at the earliest opportunity, to the centers and bases of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps all over the country in order to be deployed, after being organized within the provincial Karbala' convoys due to be sent to the fronts in response to the summons by the imam of the Islamic nation.

Also, all those who have not yet received the necessary military training are invited to assist the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps toward the speediest formation of the 20-million-strong army, in carrying out this important command by the imam and the momentous mission entrusted to them, by applying in person to the corps bases and the Basij resistance groups of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps throughout the country in order to receive military training.

The statement also reads: The telephone numbers 398257, 398251, and 314125 of the Corps Central Staff Command are

ready to cooperate and coordinate with, and answer queries from the Hezbollahi Islamic nation, state organs and institutions, and Islamic societies throughout the country with regard to setting up Karbala' convoys, Fajr brigades, and divisions in response to the recent behests by the imam for deployment to the battlefields.

Iraqi General Admits 'Heavy' Losses in Al-Faw Battles

LD301014 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 30, IRNA — Commander of the Iraqi Third Army confessed for the first time that the Iraqi Army has suffered heavy losses in the Val-Fajr-8 offensive launched by the Iranian forces in Feb. in Al-Faw peninsula.

General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid described the casualties inflicted on the Iraqi forces as "heavy" and said that a number of the best senior Iraqi officers have been killed in the operation, the Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA'* quoted him as saying.

Further in the report published in Sunday issue of the paper, the Iraqi general was quoted as saying that if the Iranian forces made more advances in the Al-Faw region, he will commit suicide.

"If the Iranian forces continue their aggression against the Iraqi territory, I will first kill my wife and my daughter and then myself," the paper quoted him as saying.

'Abd al-Rashid encouraged the Iraqi regime to deploy chemical weapons against the Islamic forces of Iran and added that if he was to make military decisions he would burn the Iranian forces with whatever available.

The general was quoted as saying that he would not hesitate using chemical weapons against Iran. He ridiculed th U.N. Security Council's statement on banning chemical weapons and said that he would not wait for the UN to tell him which weapons he would be allowed to use.

Controversial remarks of General 'Abd al-Rashid, who is acting as the speaker of the Iraqi regime, has created problems for the Saddam's regime. Following the liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw, he had said that he would take the city back in three days time.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique No 27

LD281142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Here is a Central News Unit report from Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Communique No 27, issued today, announces:

The relentless battle of the antiblasphemy troops of the monotheistic army continues, assaulting the positions of the defeated Zionist enemy and strengthening and consolidating the conquered positions around Al-Faw. Irreparable casualties are being inflicted on the moribund enemy in the waters of Khawr 'Abdallah and the shores of this strategic region.

The communique declares: By the everlasting grace of God, the selfless men of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps naval forces, using special advanced military means, yesterday conducted the unprecedented movement of a large military naval convoy. Having been escorted to its destination on the shores of the northern Persian Gulf, the enitre convoy has berthed in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational waters.

Last night and this morning too, the heroes of the Islamic Guards Corps naval forces fired at and destroyed two military craft of the Iraqi Zionist regime in the waters of Khawr 'Abdallah, together with all their equipment and crew. Also, another three enemy naval craft in the area were heavily damaged, so much so that the parts of one of the destroyed craft could be seen in the area's waters.

An enemy helicopter gunship attempted to save the lives of the forces on this craft but was fired on by the coastal artillery of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps naval forces and destroyed.

Also, following the bombing of the Zionist forces' positions along the Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Al-Bihar, and Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axes during last night and today, irreparable losses and casualties were inflicted on the moribund Iraqi Army by sorties of the intrepid Air Force pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces.

It is noteworthy that yesterday while moving the corps' large military naval convoy in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater, massive and heavy fire by the coastal artillery of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps naval forces and timely air defense action downed three enemy fighter aircraft in that region. The total number of aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi regime's army shot down since the beginning of the "Val-Fajr-8" operation has reached 73.

Communique No 2423

LD281839 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — In its Communique Number 2423, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic said Friday that heavy clashes took place between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi soldiers in 'Panjwin' operational region Friday at which the attempt of the Iraqi troops to advance was crushed. It said also that Ba'thist troops sustained casualties and damages as a result of Iranian artillery fire on their position in the region.

In other northwestern battlefronts some Iraqi soldiers were killed as their defense positions were heavily pounded Iran's [as received] Muslim combatants, the joint staff said. An enemy's munitions depot as well as a truck were set ablaze, it added.

The communique said that Iraqi warplanes bombarded Rabat township a well as 'Jaldian' village at 13:20 and 17:00 hours local time (09:50 and 13:30 GMT) Thursday martyring some five civilians and injuring three others. Some heads of cattle belong-

ing to the villagers was also killed and some buildings destroyed, it added.

In border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, at least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded by Muslim combatants' artillery fire, the communique said. It added that more than ten bunkers and light and heavy weapons of the enemy were demolished and considerable damages inflicted on the enemy's oil and economic installations in "Naft Khaneh", "Bani-Malik" and "Darband-i Khan" region.

In Sumar exchange of artillery fire was more intense than in other areas in the western war fronts Thursday, the communique said.

Iran's Muslim combatants anti-aircraft units thwarted intruding Iraqi warplanes from penetrating the operational regions of Gilan-e Gharb and Eslamabad, the joint staff said.

The communique furthermore said that in southern battlefronts, the Muslim combatants of the Islamic Republic controlled all movement of the enemy especially in Umm Qasr region.

It added that in Al-Faw operation region Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damages as their positions were heavily shelled.

An Iraqi patrol unit was prevented from operating across the 'Nahr Anbar' and the enemy's patrol units were forced to flee under intense fire of the Iranian combatants, the communique said.

The command said that Iran's gendarmerie forces set ablaze a munitions depot, some artillery emplacements and an observation post of the enemy forces in Abadan operational region, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops.

Iraqi Occupation of Heights Denied

LD281907 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — A military spokesman here Friday flatly denied an Iraqi claim Friday of having occupied strategic heights north of Iraq.

The spokesman said despite an Iraqi claim reflected in its military Communique Number 2165 Friday no clashes had occured between the Iranian forces and the Iraqi troops in or near any strategic heights in Iraq.

The Iranian official noted that at 00.30 hours local time Friday (21.00 hours Thursday) [as received] one group of Iraqi troops had launched a half-hearted attack against Iran's Muslim forces midway between (Doyrah) and (Mishlan) across the Iranian city of Marivan but that its attack was immediately repelled.

The military spokesman said exchange of artillery fire continues in the area with the Iranian forces maintaining the upper hand.

Communique No 2424

LD291707 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and four observation posts, one vehicle and several bunkers of theirs were demolished in the western fronts Friday as their positions were hit by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants, says a military communique here Saturday.

Communique Number 2424 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Islamic forces of Iran opened fire on positions, supply routes and military bases of Iraqi forces in northwestern fronts killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying a base and several bunkers of theirs.

The Iranian forces shelled industrial centers and oil installations of Iraqi township of Banmil and Naft Khaneh inflicting heavy losses on them, according to the command.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian artillery fire hit an Iraqi patrol unit as it was about to infiltrate their positions near Sumar at 04:00 hours GMT Friday inflicting casualties and damage on Iraqi patrolmen and forcing the remainder to flee.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants fortified their positions and shelled Iraqi positions and 20 enemy tanks moving in the region, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

The artillery fire of Iran's gendarmerie forces hit Iraqi positions in Abadan Friday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and halting their engineering operations, says the military communique.

Navy Destroys Oil Platform

LD291653 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] According to a Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters report, the Islamic combatants continue to register more victories against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations. The selfless naval personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, bent on inflicting further destructions on the Iraqi regime troops, pounded the Al-Ummayah oil platform at 1200 today, causing heavy losses and casualties. The destruction of Al-Ummayah oil platform resulted in the death of many Iraqi mercenaries.

Communique No 2425

LD301626 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — Two Iranian civilians were martyred and 10 others wounded when invading Iraqi warplanes bombarded Kani-Sefid and Sardab villages in suburb of Baneh, Kordestan Province, twice Saturday, says a military communique here Sunday.

The Communique Number 2425 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Islamic forces of Iran in a heavy

battle with Iraqi troops in Panjwin over the past few days inflicted substantial casualties and losses on them. Enemy reinforcement and transport operations were also paralyzed by Iranian artillery fire.

The command says that nearly 35 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five bunkers and observation posts of theirs were destroyed in the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts as their positions were hit by Iranian artillery fire. Three light and heavy Iraqi vehicles were also set ablaze.

In Sardasht and Piranshahr, the communique says, Iraqi forces sustained considerable casualties and losses and parts of their positions were set ablaze by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants.

The Iranian artillery continued shelling industrial centers and oil installations of Iraqi townships of Banmil and Naft Khaneh inflicting heavy damage on them, says the communique.

In the southern fronts, says the communique, heavy artillery duels between the Islamic forces and Iraqi troops were reported in near [as received] Al-Faw where Iranian combatants checked supply and engineering operations of the Iraqi troops inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions

LD301709 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the fast-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a short-range (?support) sortie, heavily bombed enemy positions, equipment, and command posts today on the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis, north of the salt lake, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Ba'thists. The smoke from the enemy's burning military equipment can be clearly seen.

43 Iraqi Soldiers Seek Asylum

LD301909 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., March 30, IRNA — Forty three Iraqi soldiers and non-commissioned officers took refuge with Islamic forces of Iran in Al-Faw region Sunday, a senior Iranian military commander said Sunday.

The commander said that the Iraqi refugees were warmly received by Iranian Muslim combatants.

He also announced that Iranian forces are prepared to receive warmly all Iraqi soldiers who seek refuge with them.

2 Tankers Hit Near Qatar

LD302121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] According to an IRNA report, today a Norwegian oil tanker and a Panamanian tanker were atttacked by unknown helicopters in Persian Gulf waters east of Qatar. In the course of these attacks, the unloading chamber of the Norwegian tanker and engine room of the Panamanian tanker were hit, but their crew were not hurt.